

themselves. In answer Jesus said to the woman, "Thy faith, (not my word, not your tears, not your good works to me), hath saved thee; go into peace." And had they had ears to hear they would have learned that which these words can teach us today, that forgiveness is not conditioned on God's fiat, or Christ's, nor on the "Absolvote," of any Romish priest, but on the condition of *faith*. Sins are forgiven when that condition is complied with, whenever, wherever, whoever.

And into the peace, which only forgiveness can give the woman went. She who had come a poor outcast of humanity, pressed down with the awful burden of her shame, and her guilt went out into the night in that city, a new creature, those eyes still wet with penance-tears, but shining with a joy, an assurance and a hope as bright as her sins had been many and dark.

O, the joy of pardon, of peace with God! What can compare with it? Not the gold of Ophir, nor the gems of Golconda, nor the fame of Napoleon. The heart pants after God, as the hart panteth after the water brooks. It finds no rest, no peace, no joy until it finds it in Christ.

The old city was there, the old haunts, the same people, the old temptations, but how all was changed! She had found Christ and peace.

Lesson Applied

- 1 Christ preached the Gospel to the poor-rich people, as well as the literally poor.
- 2 The Gospel should break down all distinctions
- 3 Penitence knows nothing too precious to dedicate to Jesus.
- 4 Sinners are as welcome today to Jesus as ever. He is not ashamed to be called their Saviour.
- 5 There are too many Simons, Pharisees yet in the world. Are you one? Do you despise some outcast, or love them?
- 6 Jesus knows your secret thoughts. Heed your thoughts.
- 7 Christ can as easily forgive the greater sinner as the lesser. Africander, the converted heathen when asked to testify could only say, "O, my great sins and my great Saviour."
- 8 Has Jesus said to you yet, "Thy sins are forgiven; go in peace."
- 9 No peace but in Christ.

THE LESSON FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

WILLIAM T. ELLIS

1. *Jesus belongs to no class or condition; he is all men's Savior.*

A fop is out of place on a farm. He turns up his nose at the homely ways and simple life of the common people; he is altogether out of sympathy with them. The reason for this is the littleness of the fop. He is only a provincial, and unable to adjust himself to any other circumstances than those of his own narrow lot. Indeed most men are small in such ways as these. Jesus, like a truly great man, was at home anywhere.

The Pharisee's luxurious dwelling and the fisherman's humble abode were alike familiar to him. He met all men on their own level, tho he was above all. He adapted himself readily to all circumstances.

2. *Everyone owes reverence to God.*

The sleek and prosperous Jew who prepared a dinner for Jesus represents a great class in the world today. He thought his riches made him superior to his fellows. Doubtless he looked patronizingly upon this poor teacher whom he invited to dinner. Probably he thought he was doing him a favor in providing him with a good meal in a comfortable home. He went so far as to be rude to his guest, by ignoring the common courtesies of hospitality. Perhaps he supposed that this homeless prophet would not notice his omissions. There is more than a little of this thing of treating God condescendingly. It is no more a favor to God for the richest prince to acknowledge him than for the poorest outcast to do so.

3. *God's great goodness to us should command great gratitude from us.*

Most of us remember the scene in the story of Robinson Crusoe wherein the savage, Friday, accepts Crusoe as his deliverer. With most extravagant professions of humility and gratitude he advanced toward the man who had saved his life. He kissed the ground, he put Crusoe's foot upon his head and in other ways acknowledged the white man to be his master. This was but natural, for he had just been rescued from the horrible death. So was the action of the sinful woman natural, in bathing her Saviour's feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair.

4. *Salvation has been provided for the very worst sinners*

The ocean does not miss a great cloud full of water any more than it does a dipper full. It is equal to all demands upon it, because of its vastness. Similarly, we cannot make too great drafts upon God's forgiveness, because it is limitless. Often a sinner thinks that the guilt is too great to be forgiven. Jesus has shown us plainly, by his treatment of the worst sinners that he met during his earthly ministry, that God gladly forgives all, no matter how great their sin, who turn to him in penitence and love.

5. *Our best belongs to Jesus.*

Some one has said that it is a common habit for a man to put the most battered nickel he carries, or the most tattered bill, into the church offering. There is more than an odd notion, however, in the custom of one old man who always selects the brightest piece of money he owns to give to the Lord. The principle underlying the act is that God deserves the best. The most precious alabaster cruse of ointment belongs at the Saviour's feet. Have you a talent for music, for speaking, for attracting friends, for anything at all? It should be dedicated to the King's service.

6. *If we would please our Master, we must be humble.*

The most conceited boys are the one often-

est tripped up on the playground. Everybody's hand seems turned against the proud person. Even God dislikes pride. Jesus is not pleased with pride in us any more than he was pleased with it in the uncharitable Pharisee of old.

Terse Teachings

Love always finds a gift.
Tears may be treasures for Christ.
The self-satisfied are unsatisfactory.
The faith that ventures is victorious.
Christ does not regard social standing.
Charitableuess is as much a duty as chastity.

They are highest in Christ's favor who are lowest at his feet.

When we throw ourself at Christ's feet he takes us to his heart.

Usually we have to learn the lesson of forgiveness in the hard school of experience.

Church News

Indiana to Pennsylvania

Having received a unanimous call to take the Salisbury pastorate and become Dr. Mackey's successor, we were forced, with much regret to resign our charge at Union Salem. This was our third year among this dear people and thru-out our pastorate from the beginning we saw marked improvement. During our stay, we were able to change from monthly to alternate Sunday services by a little sacrifice. The class as a whole will be found alive to a deeper spirituality than when we were called as her pastor. The last year was our best year and much preparation of soil and seedsowing has been done which shall be harvested by other hands ere long. It was hard for us to leave them but God called us elsewhere. We wish them a faithful, fearless shepherd to administer to their wants. Our prayers are for the success and prosperity of the Union Salem class.

PENNSYLVANIA

Our work opened Easter Sunday with a very good congregation. The Salisbury class is well organized with every department of the church in working condition. Hope to have every department active and progressive. Brother Mackey has taught them method and system in doing church work. These dear people have already endeared themselves to us in many ways. Pennsylvanians are noted for their *generosity* and *hospitality*. From our first visit among them, they exhibited these most excellent qualities.

A preacher must needs be ready for any surprise or emergency. But the fact is he is *not*, at all times. The Brethren took us all by surprise ere we were settled down in our new home. Cash, maple syrup—well our larder completely fitted out. We think Sister Beachy was the prime mover of the surprise as she said a sister we had never met would call at 8 P. M. Our thanks not only for these delicacies but the love that prompts them. These happy events are rainbows after clouds that come to every faithful pastor. Prospects are good for a successful